

TSN ITDS Committee
Announcing the Formation of the Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation (OMC)
Trade Working Group

Attention, Brokers, Importers, and Software Developers

The Office of Marine Conservation (OMC) at the Department of State manages the Section 609 Program under which the United States certifies countries to export wild-caught shrimp to the United States. The International Trade Data System (ITDS) Committee of the Trade Support Network (TSN) needs your input and participation in an upcoming **ACE/ITDS OMC Working Group** under the auspices of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) and in accordance with the ITDS protocols for implementing ACE/ITDS in the spirit of the February 2014 Executive Order on Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America's Businesses.

Working Group Purpose

The purpose of the OMC Working Group will be to ensure that all stakeholders are invited to participate in a discussion of the technical solution and data elements that will be required by the Department of State in the new cargo release and control functionality of ACE/ITDS. Primarily the workgroup will focus on the IT related issues associated with implementing the ACE/ITDS. The working group will consist of members of the international trade community, including importers, brokers, and software developers, that import shrimp and shrimp product into the United States. Officials from OMC and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that are working on the development and deployment of ACE/ITDS will be part of this working group. The engagement in ACE/ITDS will require electronic submissions of all Department of State required import data for cargo admissibility processing. Your involvement is needed to ensure that the transition to ACE/ITDS will continue to support efficient and timely cargo releases while in compliance with Department of State requirements.

OMC Authority

The Department of State collects data on imports of shrimp and shrimp products pursuant to the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990, Pub. L. 101-162, § 609, 103 Stat. 1037 (1989) (note to 16 U.S.C. 1537). The information is necessary for verifying that shipments of shrimp and shrimp product exported to the United States have been harvested in a manner which does not harm sea turtles, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162. The information is used by CBP to determine if shrimp and shrimp product shipped to the United States meet the requirements for entry pursuant to Section 609, which prohibits imports of shrimp and shrimp product unless it is certified that either the harvesting nation has a sea turtle protection program comparable to the U.S. program or that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles.

Working Group Task

The working group is tasked with assuring that all technical and data requirements are transitioned to ACE/ITDS in a seamless, efficient, and timely manner, and in particular, that the ACE data assists the CBP to execute its import processing and review duties. ACE/ITDS will allow more efficient

government decision-making associated with goods arriving at the border, reducing the time for clearing goods from many days to, in some cases, seconds. This will dramatically speed the flow of legitimate commerce across our borders. Furthermore, coordinated and automated messaging about these decisions will increase predictability in the private sector and allow them to plan supply chain movements with greater confidence and less cost. ACE/ITDS once deployed will decommission the current system known as Automated Commercial System (ACS). The official “single-window” system of record will be known as ACE. ACE will require that all data related to ACE Cargo Release and Control be submitted electronically under the Partner Government Agency (PGA) Message Set.

Working Group Commitment

Working Group participants should be prepared to commit to weekly conference calls typically of a 2-hour duration over a time period determined by OMC. A more definitive schedule will be determined at the Working Group’s first meeting. The teleconferences will focus on the business process and technical data flows required for the above-referenced OMC Message Sets in order to define the programming and operational guidelines to be implemented by CBP, OMC, importers, and importer brokers when filing and processing entries for products subject to Department of State jurisdiction at US borders. Regulatory and policy issues are outside the scope of this working group.

To participate in the OMC ACE/ITDS Trade Working Group please send your contact information to the persons listed below by cob Monday, April 18, 2016

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